

Meeting Date: January 11, 2007

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Domestic Elk

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton/Jim Unsworth

Background:

Growth of the captive elk industry in Idaho, especially “shooter bull” operations, has created numerous questions and challenges for the Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG). Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has statutory authority over domestic cervids, which include elk, fallow deer and reindeer, and has implemented rules for the operation of such facilities. IDFG has statutory authority over all free-ranging wildlife as well as captive possession of wildlife with the exception of upland game birds, fur farm animals and domestic cervids and has implemented rules for the possession of wildlife.

The recent escape of between 75 – 160 domestic elk in eastern Idaho has increased interest and concern among sportsmen, the general public, and elected officials. It is likely several bills will be considered by the legislature this winter and the Department may be asked to provide comment.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture has regulatory authority over domestic cervidae.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

None.

Justification:

The Commission has asked for a review of the Department’s involvement in domestic elk issues.